

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed February 24, 2006.

In the present paper, the specification is amended. The Examiner has stated that Claims 1-20 are presented for examination. **Applicant notes that claims 1-20 were canceled by a preliminary amendment filed with the case on March 3, 2004. That preliminary amendment also added claims 21-45.** Claims 21-45 are therefore presented here for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

Should the Examiner require an additional copy of the Preliminary Amendment, the undersigned would be happy provide one in whatever form (US mail, email, fax) requested.

The Specification

Applicant has amended herein the first paragraph of the specification, which was originally added by preliminary amendment. That paragraph includes the claim of priority, and has been amended to include the U.S. patent number and issue date of the parent.

The Claims

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. As noted above, Applicants have canceled those claims and added new claims 21-45 by preliminary amendment. Because the Examiner does not appear to have addressed the current claims in the case in the rejection, Applicants have not responded substantively to the rejection. For example, Applicants have not filed a Terminal Disclaimer.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20-45 are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present case, the Examiner should not hesitate in contacting the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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